



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Cong. Kind Honored for Conservation Leadership

Coalition of 3,000 Groups Recognize Work to Preserve Wildlife and Vital Habitat; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Name Kind Conservation Legislator of the Year

Washington, DC—Conservation leaders from the state of Wisconsin and around the country gathered in Washington this week to recognize U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) as a champion for conservation efforts in the U.S. Congress. The award was presented by the Teaming with Wildlife Coalition on behalf of more than 3,000 groups working to conserve wildlife and vital habitat. Representing the state of Wisconsin was George Meyer, the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, and workers from the Wisconsin State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Kind also learned today that he will be named Conservation Legislator of the Year by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at a Fish Habitat Conservation Awards Luncheon in Washington next week.

“Having grown up beneath the awe-inspiring bluffs of the western Wisconsin coulee region with one of our nation’s most beautiful natural treasures—the Mississippi River— in my back yard, I have a great appreciation and enthusiasm for the outdoors that I want future generations to be able to experience,” said Kind who has received a 100 percent rating from the League of Conservation Voters for 2005.

“Conservation is critical to ensuring that our outdoor traditions remain an important part of the nation’s heritage. I am so honored to receive these awards and look forward to expanding our efforts to be good stewards of our wildlife and natural resources.”

As a member of the House Resources Committee and Vice Co-Chair of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus, Kind has helped to focus attention on natural wildlife and resource conservation. His efforts have led to increased funding for State Wildlife grants and successful environmental initiatives like the Environmental Management Program. Kind also has sponsored various conservation-related bills, including legislation to protect the health of the Upper Mississippi River Basin, establish a national program to combat chronic wasting disease, and preserve the habitats of neo-tropical migratory birds that populate along the river.

“We are fortunate to have a native Wisconsin son in Representative Kind who has seized the mantle of conservation leadership in the U.S. Congress and is recognized nationally for his efforts to preserve and protect our precious wildlife and natural resources,” stated George Meyer, a former Secretary of the Wisconsin State DNR. “Rep. Kind’s commitment to conservation honors the legacy of leaders such as Senator Gaylord Nelson and builds upon the Wisconsin tradition of stewardship that we are so proud of in our state.”

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Teaming with Wildlife, which presented the award to Kind, is a coalition of more than 3,000 groups working to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered by supporting robust programs of conservation, education, and recreation in every state. The coalition includes fish and wildlife managers, environmentalists, hunters and anglers, tourism and nature-related businesses, and many others who support the goal of restoring and conserving our nation's wildlife. For more information, go to **www.teaming.com**.